

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A swimming pool cleaning ~~An apparatus for steering an automatic swimming pool cleaner,~~ comprising:

a) an automatic pool cleaner, said cleaner having a housing, said housing having a front, a rear, an upper surface and a lower surface;

b) a vacuum pole, said pole being elongated, said pole having a bore therein, said pole having a first and a second end, said first end for attachment to said upper surface of said housing of said pool cleaner and said second end for being grasped by a user; ~~and,~~

c) means for connecting said vacuum pole to said housing of said pool cleaner whereby the pole can be manipulated by a user to steer the pool cleaner; ~~;~~ and

d) said first end of said pole having a pair of securing holes disposed in the walls thereof, said securing holes being oppositely disposed for receiving a pair of securing pins, and said first end of said pole also having a pair of securing holes disposed in the walls thereof, said securing holes being oppositely disposed for receiving a pair of securing pins.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein said means for connecting said vacuum pole to said housing further comprises a pole attachment member, said pole attachment member having a first end and a second end, said first end for

attachment to said housing and said second end for attachment to said first end of said pole.

5. (original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said second end of said pole attachment member further comprises a cylindrical portion for insertion into said bore of said pole, said cylindrical portion having a bore therein, said cylindrical portion having a pair of holes in the walls thereof, said holes being oppositely disposed for receiving a pair of securing pins.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 5, further comprising a compression clip disposed in ~~internal~~ said bore of said cylindrical portion of said pole attachment member, said clip having a pair of securing pins laterally disposed on the ends thereof, said pins for insertion through said pair of holes of said pole attachment member and said securing holes of said pole, wherein said pair of holes of said pole attachment member align with said securing holes of said pole.

7. (original) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said cylindrical portion of said pole attachment member has a pair of protrusions thereon, said protrusions being oppositely disposed, said protrusions mating with said depressions disposed in the walls of said first end of said pole.

8. (original) The apparatus of Claim 7, further comprising a universal ball joint disposed on said first end of said pole attachment member, wherein said ball joint comprises a ball disposed in a connecting member, said connecting member being a disk-

like member having a top side and a bottom side, said top side having a cavity therein for receiving said ball thereby forming a ball joint on said top side of said connecting member.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, further comprising a first and a second mating hook and loop material member, said first piece of hook and loop member material being disposed on said bottom side of said disk-like connecting member and said second mating hook and loop member being disposed on said housing of said pool cleaner, said second mating hook and loop member further comprising means for bonding to said housing of said pool cleaner.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 8 9, further comprising a hook disposed on said bottom side of said disk-like connecting member and a mating ring for receiving said hook disposed on said housing of said pool cleaner, said ring further comprising a plate, said plate further comprising means for bonding to said housing of said pool cleaner.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 8 10, further comprising a male threaded member disposed on said bottom side of said disk-like connecting member and a mating female threaded member for receiving said male threaded member disposed on said housing of said pool cleaner, said female threaded member further comprising a plate, said plate further comprising means for bonding to said housing of said pool cleaner.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 8 11, further comprising a male bayonet fastener member disposed on said bottom side of said disk-like connecting

member and a mating female bayonet fastener member for receiving said male bayonet member disposed on said housing of said pool cleaner, said female bayonet member further comprising a plate, said plate further comprising means for bonding to said housing of said pool cleaner.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~8~~ 12, further comprising a suction cup member disposed on said bottom side of said disk-like connecting member and a plate for receiving said suction cup member disposed on said housing of said pool cleaner, said plate further comprising means for bonding to said housing of said pool cleaner.

14. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said means for bonding further comprises an adhesive.